(a) the number of incidents of burst of gas cylinders reported in Delhi during 1996 and 1997 so far;

(b) the number of casualities in these incidents; and

(c) the precautionary measures taken by Government to avoid recurrence of such accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) According to the public sector Oil Companies, no report of burst of LP Gas Cylinders has been reported in Delhi during 1996 and 1997 (upto 30.6.97)

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Regional Offices of KVS

3053. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA :
SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to set up some more regional offices of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; location-wise; and

(c) the time by which these office are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of Tubewells in H.P.

3054. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the funds earmarked to Himachal Pradesh to meet the requirement of tubewells, irrigation and drinking water; and

(b) the names of places where the State Government has urged the Union Government for the installation of trube wells ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Funds earmarked to Himachal Pradesh during 1996-97 for major and medium, minor irrigation including tubewells and drinking water are given below :

	Approved outlay (Rs. in lakhs)
Major & Medium	321.70 (Revised)
Minor Irrigation (including tubewells)	3676.07 (Revised)
Drinking water	10632.60

(b) No such request has been received from State Government.

Making Practical Optional

3055. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to make the subjects optional involving dissection of animals for the study purposes in schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) In pursuance of the judgement of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in CWP No. 1391/96 dated 19.5.97, Government have already issued instrucitons on 23.5.97 to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) to make dissection of animals optional to students of Senior Secondary stage and the existing syllabus be modified by the NCERT and CBSE jointly to include alternate activities and experiments.

[English]

Supply of Bitumen

3056. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI B.K. GADHVI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for allotment of Bitumen to the various States;

(b) whether demand from the States for supply of bitumen has been received;